

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: July 23, 2006
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WEATHER



A very strong high pressure system settled over the western United States and remained entrenched over the region for the entire week. This resulted in extremely hot, record breaking temperatures across the State. Subtropical moisture circulated around the high pressure and brought increased humidity, with unusually warm overnight temperatures. The subtropical moisture also caused scattered thunderstorm activity mainly across the mountains, although some reached the northern sections of the San Joaquin Valley and into the Sacramento Valley. This resulted in rare rainfall amounts for some locations in those valleys. By the end of the week, the high pressure had strengthened to impressive levels, with record shattering heat across the Central Valley and in interior coastal areas. The heat wave continued through the weekend.

FIELD CROPS

Irrigation schedules increased for all field crops due to the intense heat. The winter **wheat** and **barley** harvests were essentially complete. Seed **alfalfa** fields and **safflower** fields were in full bloom in most areas. Safflower harvest began in Fresno County. The fourth cutting of alfalfa hay continued. **Cotton** was maturing well, and squaring was mostly complete; however, the heat and humidity were causing squares to shed in some areas. Late planted **rice** continued to emerge, and fields were treated for weeds. **Garbanzo** bean harvest began in Sutter County. **Corn** for silage was harvested. Early **sugar beet** fields were harvested in Fresno County. **Blackeye bean** bloom has slowed due to the heat. **Sweet potato** harvest was underway in Merced County.

FRUIT CROPS

Mid-season varieties of **nectarines**, **peaches**, **pluots**, **plums**, and **apricots** were harvested. Varieties included Grand Pearl and Summer Bright nectarines; Red Top, Pink Lady, and Jullie White peaches; Dapple Fire and Necticotom pluots; Golden, Catalina, and OwenT plums; and Black Velvet apricots. **Pears** were treated to control various insects. Cultural operations such as irrigation, cultivation, vine suckering, and fungicide applications continued in **grape** vineyards. Harvest of Flame grapes was slow due to a weak market. Vine cutting was underway to allow sunlight penetration to enhance berry color. **Raisin** vineyards were cultivated between rows to prepare for harvest. **Pomegranate** fruits continued to size. **Fig** harvest was still in progress. **Apple** maturity was delayed due to the rise in temperatures. New **Navel** orange orchards were being established. **Valencia** harvest was very slow as growers were waiting for size increases for packing. More weight was also needed for orange juice. Red scale treatment was in progress at night to avoid hot temperatures. **Lemon** packing continued.

NUT CROPS

Pistachio and **almond** nuts continued to size. Some almond orchards in San Joaquin Valley were sprayed for mites and Navel orange worms. Almond hull split and hull split insecticide spraying continued. **Walnuts** were also sprayed for codling moths. Extreme heat continued to cause concern for sunburn in walnut orchards. Orchard mowing, cultivating, and irrigating were also still in progress.

VEGETABLE CROPS

A few **tomato** fields were sprayed for worms and some experienced heat-related rotting problems. Some fresh market tomato and freezer **lima bean** planting came to a close. Transplanting of late season **melons** and tomatoes continued while some fields were cultivated or hand weeded. New fields of **sweet corn** were prepared while the matured fields were weeded, fertilized, and treated for insect control. **Basil**, **beans**, **carrots**, **cilantro**, **cucumbers**, **eggplant**, **onion**, **peppers**, **tomatoes** and **zucchini** squash continued to be harvested. **Cantaloupe**, **honeydew** and **watermelon** harvest continued. Various Asian vegetables continued to be harvested as well as **amaranth**, **beets**, **dandelion**, **daikon**, **green beans**, and **mustard greens**.

LIVESTOCK

Summer mountain pastures were being negatively impacted by higher temperatures. Extreme fire danger existed in dry foothill areas due to the extreme heat and periods of light winds. There were still ample water supplies for irrigated pastures. Hot weather in valley areas was stressing livestock and increasing death loss. Rendering facilities were being taxed with larger numbers of dead dairy cattle and poultry. Milk production was down and dairies were using fans and misters to try to relieve stress on cows. Stock ewes were grazing on small grain hay fields and retired farmland, with a few in alfalfa fields. Bees pollinated melon and seed alfalfa fields in the central area and seed crops in the northern area.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 07/23/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 07/23/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 07/23/06	January 1 - 07/23/06	Week Ending 07/23/06	July 1 - 07/23/06	July 1 - 07/23/06	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	- - Degrees Fahrenheit - -				- - Number - -		- - Inches - -			
Eureka	57	-1	66	46	3	0	0.01	0.10	0.16	37.53
Ukiah	86	12	112	62	918	600	0.00	0.00	0.08	37.96
Santa Rosa	78	11	105	56	485	356	0.00	0.00	0.07	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	73	9	97	55	274	121	0.00	0.00	0.04	19.70
San Jose	84	13	104	65	744	574	0.00	0.00	0.04	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	870	600	0.00	0.00	0.03	14.21
Salinas AP	70	7	91	52	234	110	0.00	0.00	0.04	12.44
Monterey FAA	69	8	86	50	133	20	0.00	0.00	0.08	18.72
King City	80	11	110	53	757	420	0.00	0.00	0.01	11.44
Paso Robles AP	84	10	114	61	1,011	666	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	93	10	114	70	1,604	1,152	0.00	0.00	0.12	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	92	11	113	70	1,524	1,225	0.00	0.00	0.11	22.29
Chico AFS	89	12	112	62	1,378	955	0.00	0.00	0.09	26.32
Marysville	90	10	112	63	1,514	1,176	0.00	0.00	0.08	21.04
Sacramento AP	88	12	111	64	1,122	866	0.00	0.00	0.05	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	91	13	115	66	1,279	1,025	0.02	0.02	0.04	13.95
Fresno	95	13	113	76	1,674	1,340	0.00	0.00	0.01	10.60
Bakersfield	93	9	108	76	1,728	1,481	0.00	0.00	0.01	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	71	7	90	53	299	104	0.00	0.00	0.02	12.36
Santa Barbara	71	5	84	59	395	222	0.00	0.02	0.04	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	614	303	0.00	0.00	0.02	14.38
Los Angeles	82	7	101	69	1,226	1,027	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.77
Riverside	87	9	108	68	1,546	997	0.01	0.01	0.02	9.58
San Diego AP	78	6	99	72	935	688	0.00	0.02	0.02	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	84	7	107	61	1,087	763	0.10	0.10	0.13	5.37
Lancaster	89	8	111	69	1,611	1,101	0.01	0.01	0.07	6.92
Daggett AP	97	8	114	77	2,286	1,951	0.05	0.05	0.26	3.93
Thermal AP	99	8	120	80	2,729	2,502	0.00	0.00	0.11	3.16
Blythe	101	6	120	83	3,019	2,758	0.29	0.29	0.19	3.60
Imperial	100	8	119	83	3,021	2,568	0.00	0.00	0.07	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	76	10	101	48	370	111	0.02	0.02	0.25	12.01
Mt. Shasta	76	8	98	55	448	180	0.00	0.00	0.37	37.02
Blue Canyon	80	12	89	70	610	206	0.00	0.00	0.43	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	98	63	674	425	0.38	0.38	0.43	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (- -) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.